



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

HGC
7/29/02
Rex

In re PATENT APPLICATION OF

BOSMAN, et al

Group Art Unit: 1764

Appln. No.: 09/680,308

Examiner: GRIFFEN, W. D.

Filed: October 6, 2000

Title: PROCESS FOR THE HYDROGENATION OF PHENYL ACETYLENE IN A STYRENE-CONTAINING MEDIUM WITH THE AID OF A CATALYST

July 26, 2002

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AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

RECEIVED
JUL 26 2002

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 26, 2002, please amend the above identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

1. (Amended) Process for the hydrogenation of phenyl acetylene in a styrene-containing medium with the aid of a catalyst and in the presence of hydrogen gas, wherein the catalyst is a sulfur-free nickel catalyst with a nickel content of 10-25 wt.%, supported on a carrier material and wherein the hydrogen gas/phenyl acetylene molar ratio is 1-10.

14. (Amended) Process according to claim 1, which further comprises carrying out the hydrogenation reaction for up to about 100 days without regeneration of the catalyst.

15. (Amended) Process according to claim 1, which further comprises regenerating the catalyst after it becomes contaminated resulting in a decline in hydrogenation activity.

17. (Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein the amount of phenyl acetylene in the styrene-containing medium following hydrogenation, is less than about 100 ppm.